

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION

Amend Subsection 360(c)
Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR)
Re: Deer: Additional Hunts

- I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: December 21, 2007
- II. Date of Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons: February 25, 2008
- III. Date of Final Statement of Reasons: May 13, 2008
- IV. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:
 - (a) Notice Hearing: Date: February 8, 2008
Location: San Diego, California
 - (b) Discussion Hearing: Date: March 7, 2008
Location: Stockton, California
 - (c) Discussion Hearing: Date: April 11, 2008
Location: Bodega Bay, California
 - (d) Adoption Hearing: Date: May 9, 2009
Location: Monterey
- V. Update:

The original proposal was modified to include a recommendation to rename “Junior” hunts to “Apprentice” hunts. In an effort to better distinguish between hunting opportunities available for junior and adult hunters, “junior hunts” have been re-titled to “apprentice hunts”. These hunting opportunities have been established with special seasons, tag quota’s, and/or tag types in order to reduce competition between junior and adult hunters. Additionally, junior deer hunters are required to have a licensed adult chaperon while hunting under an apprentice hunt tag. All of these factors assist the junior hunter in refining the skills necessary to be a safe, ethical, and successful adult hunter.

No other modifications to the original proposal were made. Pursuant to its May 9, 2008 meeting in Monterey, the Fish and Game Commission adopted the regulation changes as proposed, including the hunt name change.

VI. Summary of Primary Considerations Raised in Opposition and in Support:

No (other) public comments, written or oral, were received during the public comment period.

VII. Location and Index of Rulemaking File:

A rulemaking file with attached file index is maintained at:
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIII. Location of Department files:

Department of Fish and Game
1812 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

IX. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

1. Modify Season for Additional Hunt G-8

Modify season to include all weekdays. This proposal was considered and rejected because it would not accommodate for military operations which primarily occur on weekdays, resulting in daily hunt cancellations, hunter dissatisfaction and the unnecessary restricting of hunter opportunity.

2. Modify Season for Additional Hunt J-10

Modify season to include all weekdays. This proposal was considered and rejected because it would not accommodate for military operations which primarily occur on weekdays, resulting in daily hunt cancellations, hunter dissatisfaction and the unnecessary restricting of hunter opportunity.

3. Number of Tags

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

4. Rename "Junior" hunts to "Apprentice" hunts

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

(b) No Change Alternative:

1. Modify Season for Additional Hunt G-8

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives. Retaining the current season length and timing would be unresponsive to Base operations and scheduled activities and unnecessarily restrict hunter opportunity.

2. Modify Season for Additional Hunt J-10

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives. Retaining the current season length and timing would be unresponsive to Base operations and scheduled activities.

3. Number of Tags

The no-change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives. Retaining the current number of tags for the hunts listed may not be responsive to changes in the status of the herds. The deer herd management plans specify objective levels for the proportion of bucks in the herds. These ratios are maintained and managed in part by modifying the number of tags. The no-change alternative would not allow management of the desired proportion of bucks stated in the approved deer herd management plans.

4. Rename “Junior” hunts to “Apprentice” hunts

The no-change alternative was considered and found inadequate to accurately describe the additional hunting opportunity available to junior hunters. Renaming them as “Apprentice” hunts highlights that these opportunities are provided to assist the junior hunter in refining the skills necessary to be a safe, ethical, and successful adult hunter.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives: In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation is proposed, or would be as effective and less burdensome to the affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

X. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made.

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businessmen to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed action adjusts two (2) seasons to accommodate military base operations, adjusts tag quotas for existing hunts, and renames "Junior" hunts to "Apprentice" hunts. Given the number of tags available and the area over which they are distributed, these proposals are economically neutral to business.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California:

None.

- (c) Cost Impacts on Private Persons:

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State:

None.

- (e) Other Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies:

None.

- (f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts:

None.

- (g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4:

None.

(h) Effect on Housing Costs:

None.

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST (Policy Statement Overview)

Existing regulations for Additional Hunt G-8 (Fort Hunter Liggett Antlerless Deer Hunt) provide for hunting to begin on the Thursday preceding the Columbus Day weekend and run for five consecutive days to accommodate Base operations and other hunt opportunities. The proposal would modify the season by splitting a five consecutive day season into two periods (one of two days, the other of three) in order to accommodate other hunts and Base operations.

Existing regulations for Additional Hunt J-10 (Fort Hunter Liggett Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt) provide for hunting to begin on October 4 and extend for five consecutive days and reopen October 13 and extend for two consecutive days. The proposal would modify the season by removing two days from the season in order to accommodate Base operations

Existing regulations provide for the number of hunting tags for the additional hunts. The proposal changes the number of tags for existing hunts to a series of ranges presented in the following table. These ranges are necessary, as the final number of tags cannot be determined until spring herd data are collected in March/April. Because severe winter conditions can have an adverse effect on herd recruitment and overwinter adult survival, final tag quotas may fall below the proposed range.

In an effort to better distinguish between hunting opportunities available for junior and adult hunters, “Junior” hunts have been renamed to “Apprentice” hunts. These hunting opportunities have been established with special seasons, tag quota’s, and/or tag types in order to reduce competition between junior and adult hunters. Additionally, junior deer hunters are required to have a licensed adult chaperon while hunting under an apprentice hunt tag. All of these factors assist the junior hunter in refining the skills necessary to be a safe, ethical, and successful adult hunter.

Pursuant to its May 9, 2008 meeting in Monterey, the Fish and Game Commission adopted the regulation changes as follows:

Deer: § 360(c) Additional Hunts			
2008 Recommended Tag Allocations (Modified Proposal)			
Hunt Number (and Title)	Current	Original Proposal	Modified Proposal
G-1 (Late Season Buck Hunt for Zone C-4)	2,850	500-5,000	2,850
G-3 (Goodale Buck Hunt)	35	5-50	35
G-6 (Kern River Deer Herd Buck Hunt)	50	25-100	50
G-7 (Beale Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	20 Military*	20 Military*	20 Military*

Deer: § 360(c) Additional Hunts 2008 Recommended Tag Allocations (Modified Proposal)			
Hunt Number (and Title)	Current	Original Proposal	Modified Proposal
G-8 (Fort Hunter Liggett Antlerless Deer Hunt)	10 Military* 10 Public	10 Military* and 10 Public	10 Military* 10 Public
G-9 (Camp Roberts Antlerless Deer Hunt)	15 Military* 15 Public	15 Military* 15 Public	15 Military* 15 Public
G-10 (Camp Pendleton Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	400 Military*	400 Military*	400 Military*
G-11 (Vandenberg Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	500 Military* and DOD**	500 Military* and DOD**	500 Military* and DOD**
G-12 (Gray Lodge Shotgun Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	30	10-50	30
G-13 (San Diego Antlerless Deer Hunt)	300	50-300	300
G-19 (Sutter-Yuba Wildlife Areas Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25	10-50	25
G-21 (Ventana Wilderness Buck Hunt)	25	25-100	25
G-37 (Anderson Flat Buck Hunt)	25	25-50	25
G-38 (X-10 Late Season Buck Hunt)	300	50-300	300
G-39 (Round Valley Late Season Buck Hunt)	5	5-150	5
M-3 (Doyle Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	20	10-75	20
M-4 (Horse Lake Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	15	5-50	10
M-5 (East Lassen Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	10	5-50	10
M-6 (San Diego Muzzleloading Rifle Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	80	25-100	80
M-7 (Ventura Muzzleloading Rifle Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	150	50-150	150
M-8 (Bass Hill Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	10	5-50	20
M-9 (Devil's Garden Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	15	5-100	15

Deer: § 360(c) Additional Hunts 2008 Recommended Tag Allocations (Modified Proposal)			
Hunt Number (and Title)	Current	Original Proposal	Modified Proposal
M-11 (Northwestern California Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	20	20-200	20
MA-1 (San Luis Obispo Muzzleloading Rifle/Archery Buck Hunt)	150	20-150	150
MA-3 (Santa Barbara Muzzleloading Rifle/Archery Buck Hunt)	150	20-150	150
J-1 (Lake Sonoma Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25	10-25	25
J-3 (Tehama Wildlife Area Apprentice Buck Hunt)	15	15-30	15
J-4 (Shasta-Trinity Apprentice Buck Hunt)	15	15-50	15
J-7 (Carson River Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	15	10-50	15
J-8 (Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	15	10-20	15
J-9 (Little Dry Creek Apprentice Shotgun Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	5	5-10	5
J-10 (Fort Hunter Liggett Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	10 Military * 75 Public	10 Military * 75 Public	10 Military* 75 Public
J-11 (San Bernardino Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	40	10-50	40
J-12 (Round Valley Apprentice Buck Hunt)	10	10-20	10
J-13 (Los Angeles Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	40	25-100	40
J-14 (Riverside Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	30	15-75	30
J-15 (Anderson Flat Apprentice Buck Hunt)	10	5-30	10
J-16 (Bucks Mountain/Nevada City Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	75	10-75	75
J-17 (Blue Canyon Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25	5-25	25

Deer: § 360(c) Additional Hunts 2008 Recommended Tag Allocations (Modified Proposal)			
Hunt Number (and Title)	Current	Original Proposal	Modified Proposal
J-18 (Pacific/Grizzly Flat Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	75	10-75	75
J-19 (Zone X-7a Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25	10-40	25
J-20 (Zone X-7b Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	20	5-20	20
J-21 (East Tehama Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	50	20-80	50

* *Specific numbers of tags are provided for military hunts through a system which restricts hunter access to desired levels and ensures biologically conservative hunting programs.*

** *DOD = Department of Defense*